

REMARKS

Claims 1–14 and 25-34 are pending in the application. Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement that Claims 1-11 and 25 through 33 have been allowed.

Only claims 12-14 and 34 remain rejected. With this amendment Claim 12 has been amended in order to place the rejected claims in condition for allowance. Claims 14 and 34 have been cancelled.

Claims 12-14 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/39501 for reasons set forth in previous Office action. The Examiner states that the issue here appears to be the interpretation of the term "replicatively" in clause (a) of Claim 12. The Examiner states that the Applicant s have argued that this term requires the use of the prefabricated magazine several times for the fabrication of microcomponents. The Examiner states that the term could also be interpreted as requiring the replication of the surface and/or form of one microstructured molded part and therefore applicant's arguments are not persuasive.

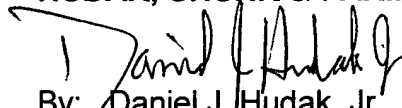
Independent Claim 12 has been amended to clarify that the prefabricated magazine is reused in at least two different fabrication steps to produce microstructured molded parts as described in the specification. Accordingly, the WO 501 reference cannot teach or suggest amended independent Claim 12.

Support for the amendment is found on at least page 8 forth full paragraph wherein it is stated that "it is within the meaning of the invention to reuse an already fabricated magazine as a mold insert for microcomponent production." Furthermore, page 9, first full paragraph states numerous advantages are obtained since the replication process for the fabrication of the magazine is eliminated. Shorter times for production are also gained utilizing a preformed magazine or reusing a preformed magazine. Also, cost and mold material can be saved, and emptied magazines can be reused as it may already contain structures or negative forms for the subsequent fabrication of microcomponents.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and a notice of such is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns regarding this response a telephone call to the undersigned is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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